Mohan Dharia Committee Report on Wasteland Development

493. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYENT be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Government to implement the Mohan Dharia Committee report regarding wasteland development;

(b) whether Government have considered giving effective role to the panchayati raj insitutions for the development of wasteland in the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that the extent of wastelands is an high as 175 million hectares; and

(d) the area of wasteland converted into useful land for agriculture and other purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) The report of the High Level Committee on wastelands development headed by Shri Mohan Dharia involved consultations with various Ministries/Departments viz. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Planning & Programme Implementation, Deptt. of Science & Technology etc. Their views have been obtained and necessary steps initiated to process the same for obtaining the approval of the Government.

(b) The guidelines have already been issued for the involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Project Planning, Implementation & Monitoring of Progress ofall area-based programmes like Desert Development Programme (DDP), Draught, Prone Area Programme (DPAP), integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS).

(c) As per the estimates arrived at by National Commission on Agriculture (1976), the size of wastelands is about 175 million hectares in the country.

(d) The conversion of wastelands for agriculture is not the mandate of the National Wastelands Devleopment Board.

Reservation for Muslims in Local Elections in Karnataka

494. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has provided reservation for Muslims separtely in Zilla Panchayats, Taluk Panchayat, and Mandal Panchayat elections;

(b) if so, the percentage of reservations provided for Muslims in the local bodies;

(c) the relevant section under which such a provision has been made in the Karnataka Panchayat Act and when was this amendment introduced in the Karnataka Panchayat Act; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce such provisions in all the other States in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no separate provision for reservation of seats for Muslims in Zilla Panchayats, Taluk Panchayats and the Gram Panchayats in Karnataka. The reserved seats are available to the Muslims under the category of backward classes only under Section 5, 123 and 162 of the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993,

which was subsequently amended vide Karnataka Government Notification No. LAW-4-LGN 95 dated 6th July, 1995 and was effected retrospectively from 13th January, 1995.

(d) No, sir.

Conversion of Lease Hold Tenure of Land

495. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have further modified the scheme for conversion of leasehold tenure of land into freehold in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Modifications in the scheme provide for remission in charges as under:—

(i) Remission by 50% in the case of original leases in rehabilitation colonies in whose cases first sale is exempted from payment of unearned increase and lessees are liable to pay nominal ground rent of Re. 1/- as per terms and conditions of the lease;

(ii) Remission in conversion fee by 33 1/3% in respect of ready built flats/ tenements allotted by DDA, flats constructed by Group Housing Societies and the tenements allotted/administered by L&DO;

(iii) Remission in conversion charges by 25% in respect of other lessees and also in cases where properties have changed hands after seeking sale permission pursuant to the terms and conditions of the lease;

(iv) the scheme has been made available to the allottees/ leases in Asiad Village Complex.

Granting more Autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir

496. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
SHRI SANTAN BISI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to bring forward a proposal before Parliament regarding granting of greater autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir as reported in the 'Times of India' dated the 25th June and 1st July, 1996;

(b) if so, what is the extent of autonomy proposed to be restored by the Central Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to consult all the Parties/Groups in Parliament and various Kashmiri leaders in this regard, and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) As stated in the Common Minimum Programme, the Government is for giving maximum autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir. It is not feasible to spell out the details in this regard at this stage. The details would need to be worked out after discussions when there is an elected Assembly and Government in the State.